

Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, March 7, 2011

Attendees:

Committee Chair - Bill Theis
Town Chair – Steven Threefoot
Town Treasurer – David Michelson
Town Secretary – Elaine Hickey
Trustees – Connee McKinney, Mike Curtis
Archives –Debbie Ricard
Audit - Cookie Ohlson
Budget-Jeffrey Politis
Buzz Ware Village Center – Warren Rosenkranz
Civic – Ed Rohrbach
Community Planning – not present
Forest – Elizabeth Varley
Playground – Larry Walker
Registration – Debbie Theis
Safety – Denis O'Reagan
Guest – Larry Strange

Chair Bill Theis called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Schroeder Bequest Grant Funds –Bill Theis

Two grant proposals were submitted; one from the Forest Committee for a project to establish a native plant garden and increase diversity in the Arden Woods at Marsh & Millers Rds., and one from the Playground Committee for a project to improve the "Fall Zones" under the playground equipment on the Sherwood Green. The Town Officers recommend that both proposals be granted \$2000.00 each. In keeping with the requirements of the Will, both of these proposals are for work to be done that would not normally be done through regular maintenance.

The Playground project is establishing something new and different, however future maintenance on that project will have to go into the committee's budget. Denis questioned the safety of installing 6x6 wooden barriers around the playground, but Larry explained that they would be even with the ground. He said there is also the option of installing plastic barriers. It was decided that the Playground Committee will footnote their proposal by saying that they will install barriers that are deemed the safest.

Jeffrey suggested that just one proposal be chosen and thus given enough money to complete their project instead of just enough money to get it started, as is the case with the Playground proposal. Larry said they are happy to get money to start the project in order to see how it goes.

Advisory will present the recommendation in its Report to the Town Assembly on March 28.

Census –Steven Threefoot

Steven received a report from the 2010 Census stating that the Arden population is at 543. This is up from the last census. Also, they had no response from 20 households and 78.5% of the responding households are owner occupied and 21.5% are rentals.

Absentee Voting – Steven Threefoot

An article in *The Page* said that State Law requires Absentee Balloting. Our attorney says that is not correct. State Law does not require any of the Ardens to have Absentee Balloting. In fact we are able to define how we wish to run our elections.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants – Steven Threefoot

The grants are moving forward. We received the contract on the last one on Saturday. It will be signed and returned to the State on Wednesday. There will be discussion on the EECBG at Town Meeting.

Treasurer – David Michelson

David asked all committee chairs to get their outstanding receipts to him by Mar. 24 when the fiscal year ends. The Assessors want the Audit Report by the beginning of June.

Secretary – Elaine Hickey

Elaine received archival paper boxes from the State Archives. The State has the Arden Town Meeting Minutes Aug.-1943 thru Sept. 1992. Elaine will pack up Jan. 1993 thru Sept. 2010 in these boxes and send them to the State Archives. They no longer film the Minutes, but will keep the paper that we send them.

The FAA has notified us that the Record of Decision (ROD) on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Enhancement program at Philadelphia International Airport is available online and that hard copy is available at the Claymont and Brandywine Hundred Libraries.

TRUSTEES – Connee McKinney

The Trustees have not yet found a new lawyer to take over the Buckingham Greene project.

MOTIONS – None of the Committees plan on presenting any Motions at the March Town Meeting.

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Bill passed around the current slate of Committee nominees and each Committee representative verified with their signature that their slate was correct.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit- Cookie Ohlson will do the Jan.-Mar. audit on March 23rd.

BWVC – Warren Rosenkranz- The 200 AMP electrical service will be installed at the Buzz in order to get ready for the installation of the solar panels.

Budget – Jeffrey Politis distributed the 3 yr. projection Budget with expected expenses. The BWVC figure is what the Town would be responsible for if the BWVC did not bring in any income. BWVC income does not appear in the projection. The problem is that the Assessors use this projected budget and we don't want them to assess more than they need to. They need to take into account income other than just land rent. Jeffrey asked the Advisory committee if the BWVC income should be shown on the projected budget sheet. He feels there may be some questions if only BWVC expense but not income is shown. The committee agreed that the added detail of the BWVC income would be beneficial. It was also decided that the 2009 & 2010 budget year information does not have to be included on the projection sheet.

Civic- Ed Rohrbach had nothing to report

Forest – Elizabeth Varley – The Forest Committee is still not happy about how Ubited Water handled the Water Tower maintenance project. Steven asked if they wanted the Town to take action. Elizabeth said,

not now, but possibly in June. Also, Denis asked if pictures of the work that is done to improve the forest as a result of the Schroeder Bequest grant funds could be taken and placed in the Archives.

Playground – Larry Walker – Renovation of the playground at the top of the Village Green will begin at the end of the fiscal year. Larry also asked Civic if the annual electronics recycling day would be held in April.

Registration- Debbie Theis – The committee confirmed that the slate of nominees for the March election is complete.

Safety – Denis O'Regan – The committee will be using their budget to buy needed traffic safety signage.

GUEST – Larry Strange

New Castle County will be establishing a digital archive of the meetings. Perhaps it is time for the Village of Arden to think about videorecording Town Meetings. They could be viewed later on demand and get us to our goal of broadening community participation. Larry brings this suggestion to Advisory in order to get a feel for any objections that may arise if he brings it up at Town Meeting as a Motion. Objections might be: an increase in passive, not active, participation; there may be people who do not want to appear on a videorecording; it may inhibit people from making comments. Advantages might be: written minutes don't capture the spirit of the proceedings; an audio archive might work best; videorecording might increase attendance. Larry said that the camera would just be pointed to the front of the room and you'd be able to hear, but not see the speakers. Costs could be bootstrapped. It would only cost money if you did a live broadcast. Steven suggested that Larry bring this up with Community Planning and work through that committee to bring it to Town Meeting. Otherwise it could be brought up under New Business.

REFRESHMENTS

Archives Committee will provide refreshments for the March Town Meeting.

Committee Reports will be presented in **alphabetical** order.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Hickey
Secretary, Village of Arden